

American

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Canada-U.S. Economic Partnership Strong and Growing

28 March 2013

Washington — U.S. Commerce Department Assistant Secretary for Market Access and Compliance Michael Camuñez traveled to Ottawa, Canada, to advance bilateral trade and North American competitiveness, the Commerce Department said in a March 27 news release.

“The United States and Canada are each other’s largest, and arguably most important bilateral trading partners, with a staggering \$600 billion in annual two-way trade. When you include investment, we’re talking about an annual economic relationship in excess of 1 trillion dollars — one of the world’s largest and most successful partnerships,” Camuñez said.

And beyond statistics, Camuñez said, those numbers represent real economic prosperity, regional competitiveness and literally millions of jobs.

Throughout the trip, Camuñez engaged his Canadian counterparts with the goal of deepening the U.S.-Canada bilateral trade relationship on issues such as regulatory cooperation and facilitating cross-border trade, and he stressed the importance of strong intellectual property rights and protections. He also discussed ways to enhance North American competitiveness.

Canada and the United States have enjoyed a long-standing economic partnership based on ease of access to shared borders, similar consumer preferences and high levels of co-production. Efforts to continue to deepen this commercial relationship — through such initiatives as the U.S.-Canada Regulatory Cooperation Council (RCC) and the Beyond the Border Initiative (BTB) — have been fruitful to date, the release said. Since 2010, bilateral trade between the United States and Canada has increased more than 30 percent.

An integral element of both the RCC and BTB initiatives is input from those involved. The views, priorities and concerns of industry help to identify new priorities under these initiatives that are central to expanding the two countries’ economic competitiveness, the Commerce Department said, adding that it will continue to engage U.S. industry in these regulatory and border priorities.

U.S. exports to Canada have increased each year since 2010, from \$197.5 billion in 2010, to \$223.8 billion in 2011 and finally to \$234.0 billion in 2012. This represents more than a 15 percent increase in U.S. exports from 2010 to 2012.

Countries Urged to Reform Energy Subsidies

By Kathryn McConnell | Staff Writer | 28 March 2013

Washington — Energy subsidies intended to help consumers by keeping prices low hinder government efforts to reduce budget deficits and compete with public spending on infrastructure, schools and health care, says David Lipton, first deputy managing director of the International Monetary Fund.

“For some countries, the fiscal weight of energy subsidies is growing so large that budget deficits are becoming unmanageable and threaten the stability of the economy,” Lipton said as he introduced the IMF’s new Reforming Energy Subsidies report March 27 at the Peterson Institute for International Economics in Washington. The report covers petroleum, electricity, natural gas and coal consumption in 176 countries during 2011.

Lipton said subsidies encourage excessive energy consumption, which aggravates climate change and worsens air pollution.

He stressed that subsidies benefit energy consumers unequally, with the richest 20 percent of households in developing countries enjoying 43 percent of subsidy benefits. “It is no wonder that the greatest beneficiaries are those with cars and air-conditioned houses,” he said.

He cited two types of energy subsidies: Pre-tax subsidies are when consumers pay prices below the cost of producing the energy, and mostly exist in developing economies. Tax subsidies exist if taxes on energy are below the level of taxes on other products or don’t account for all of the energy’s adverse impacts, such as pollution and global warming. Advanced economies account for many of the tax subsidies.

Lipton said the IMF found that 20 of the countries it studied have pre-tax subsidies of more than 5 percent of gross domestic product. In other countries, energy subsidies account for more than public spending on health care and education combined, “undermining the development of human capital,” he said.

Lipton noted that “subsidy reform can lead to a more efficient allocation of resources, which will help spur economic growth” and provide incentives for research and development of energy-saving technologies.

He urged countries to create measures to protect lower-income people as subsidy reform is implemented.

Energy should be taxed the same way as any other consumer products, the report states, adding that because emissions from some forms of energy contribute to pollution and climate change, energy taxes “should reflect

these adverse effects on society.”

To that point, Lipton said that cutting subsidies would reduce worldwide greenhouse gas emissions by 13 percent.

He noted that at the Group of 20 summit in 2009, the world’s major economies pledged to eliminate all fossil fuel subsidies. “It is surely time to get on with fulfilling this very important commitment,” he said. “The link between subsidies, consumption of energy and climate change has added a new dimension to the debate.” The G20 includes the United States, which supports energy subsidy reform.

Lipton said an energy reform plan should be comprehensive, with clear long-term objectives and analysis of the impact of reforms. The plan should be transparent and communicated to all stakeholders and include information about the size of subsidies and how they affect the government’s budget.

He said price increases should be phased in over time and that subsidy reform can be facilitated with implementation of automatic prices and a rule to avoid sharp price increases.

“The bottom line is that energy subsidization is a major problem, but one that can be solved. ... Many countries now see the benefits of doing so and intend to try,” Lipton said. “Some have already succeeded.”

U.S. Providing Humanitarian, Nonlethal Aid to Syria

By Phillip Kurata | Staff Writer | 27 March 2013

Washington — The United States is providing an “exceptional amount” of humanitarian aid to the Syrian people and rising levels of nonlethal assistance to the Syrian opposition, according to White House press secretary Jay Carney.

The Syrian Opposition Coalition is the “legitimate representative of the opposition and of the Syrian people in their effort to rid their country of the scourge that is President Assad, a leader with enormous amounts of blood of his own people on his hands,” Carney said to reporters in Washington March 26.

“We continue to provide an exceptional amount of humanitarian aid to the Syrian people, the largest amount, I believe, of any country. We continue to provide nonlethal assistance to the opposition and continue to step up the levels of nonlethal assistance that we provide,” Carney said.

The United States and its NATO partners, Carney said, are sticking to their decision not to intervene militarily in

Syria and are not planning to meet a Syrian Opposition Coalition request for Patriot missiles, which are designed to shoot down aircraft.

Carney added that the Patriot missiles deployed in Turkey, where many Syrian refugees have fled, are for “defensive purposes only,” to augment Turkey’s air defense capabilities to defend its territory and people.

In February, the White House released a fact sheet saying the United States has contributed \$365 million so far in humanitarian aid to help more than 1.5 million people inside Syria and more than 500,000 Syrians who have fled to neighboring countries. This money is spent for emergency medical care, food and winterization supplies such as blankets and heaters. The U.S. government channels the aid through the United Nations, nongovernmental organizations and partner countries such as Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon, which shelter the refugees.

The more than \$50 million so far in U.S. nonlethal assistance goes to groups working to build democratic institutions at the local and national levels and to nonsectarian civic groups that are trying to put together a nationwide network of activists from different religions and ethnic groups who want to link Syrian citizens with governmental structures.

The nonlethal assistance has enabled activists to establish community radio stations that inform refugees and displaced people about where they can get services. The assistance also is used to train citizen journalists in gathering, evaluating and disseminating information.

The nonlethal assistance has made it possible for unarmed opposition elements inside Syria to link up with global supporters, according to the fact sheet. For example, the Syria Justice and Accountability Center is getting support in its work to document human rights abuses and coordinate transitional justice and accountability efforts after the Assad regime falls.

A portion of the nonlethal assistance also is spent on promoting the Syrian business community’s engagement in transition processes, the fact sheet said.

Secretary Hagel, Russian Counterpart Discuss Mutual Security Issues

By American Forces Press Service | 27 March 2013

This article was originally posted March 26 to the Department of Defense website.

Washington — Russian Defense Minister Sergey Shoygu made a congratulatory call to Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, and the two leaders discussed a range of issues,

Pentagon Press Secretary George Little said March 25.

Hagel and Shoygu discussed the ongoing security transition in Afghanistan, Little said in a statement.

"Secretary Hagel assured his counterpart that the handover of security responsibilities is progressing as the capabilities of the Afghan national security forces continue to improve," he added.

Hagel said the United States would keep Russia and all concerned apprised throughout the process, and he encouraged close bilateral cooperation on other issues, including Syria, North Korea and Iran.

"Minister Shoygu expressed his desire to reconvene missile defense discussions with the U.S. at the deputy minister level," Little said. "Secretary Hagel agreed and reiterated that this is an important part of U.S.-Russian relations."

Hagel assured the minister that these discussions would continue and be carried forward by Undersecretary of Defense for Policy Jim Miller, the press secretary noted.

"Secretary Hagel expressed his appreciation for the call, as well as his desire to continue close coordination on a range of global issues," Little said.

U.S. Welcomes U.N. Conclusions on Status of Women

By Jane Morse | Staff Writer | 27 March 2013

Washington — Following a major international women's conference, members of the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women agreed that all nations have an unqualified responsibility to protect women and girls from violence and discrimination in the world today.

Ambassador Susan Rice, the U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations, said that the "Agreed Conclusions [by the commission members] represent vital international recognition that women and girls everywhere have a right to live free from violence, exploitation, and abuse."

The 45 member states met for the 57th session at U.N. headquarters in New York March 4-15. U.N. experts estimate that up to six out of every 10 women in the world experience physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime.

"International and regional legal instruments have clarified obligations of States to prevent, eradicate and punish violence against women and girls," states the U.N. Women website. "The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) requires that countries party to the Convention take all

appropriate steps to end violence.

"However, the continued prevalence of violence against women and girls demonstrates that this global pandemic of alarming proportions is yet to be tackled with all the necessary political commitment and resources," the U.N. Women website said.

The U.S. delegation to the commission's 57th session, which was headed by Rice, worked with fellow member states to shape a strong consensus document that could support and galvanize worldwide efforts to eliminate gender-based violence.

Among the 34 items in the Agreed Conclusions were a number of groundbreaking statements, including these:

- An explicit acknowledgement of the importance of respecting and protecting sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights.
- Recognition of the fact that domestic violence is the most prevalent form of violence against women and girls, and that men and boys are crucial to preventing such violence.
- Recognition that prevention and response efforts must also address trafficking in persons.
- Calls for a multisector response and an end to impunity.
- Calls for the advancement of women's full and equal access to economic resources, including the right to inheritance and to ownership of land.
- Reference to harmful traditional practices, such as female genital mutilation and early and forced marriage, and clear language asserting that custom, tradition or religious considerations should not serve as a basis to condone violence against women and girls.
- Calls for greater protection for specific populations that face heightened risk of violence, such as disabled women and girls, those living with HIV and indigenous women.

Although Rice hailed the Agreed Conclusions as "a milestone in our fight for the safety and dignity of women and girls everywhere," she said: "The United States remains disappointed that the Conclusions did not explicitly recognize that women and girls should not suffer violence or discrimination based on their actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. Basic rights must apply to everyone, and the United States will continue to fight relentlessly to ensure equality for all people regardless of who they are or whom they love."

In a memorandum issued January 30, 2013, to the heads of U.S. executive departments and agencies, President Obama called for better U.S. coordination of policies and programs to promote gender equality and to empower women and girls globally. "During my Administration, the United States has made promoting gender equality and advancing the status of women and girls a central

element of our foreign policy, including by leading through example at home," the president said.

"Promoting gender equality and advancing the status of all women and girls around the world remains one of the greatest unmet challenges of our time," Obama said, "and one that is vital to achieving our overall foreign policy objectives.

"Ensuring that women and girls, including those most marginalized, are able to participate fully in public life, are free from violence, and have equal access to education, economic opportunity, and health care increases broader economic prosperity, as well as political stability and security," Obama said.

According to Rice, the Agreed Conclusions "mark a milestone in our fight for the safety and dignity of women and girls everywhere."

"The United States," Rice said, "celebrates this progress as we pledge to redouble our efforts to protect and support the fundamental rights of all women and girls, both at home and around the world."

Secretary Kerry, Karzai on "Same Page" Regarding Taliban Contacts

By Phillip Kurata | Staff Writer | 26 March 2013

Washington — Secretary of State John Kerry says the United States and Afghanistan are "on the same page" regarding an Afghan-led peace process involving contacts with the Taliban.

"We are completely cooperative with the government of Afghanistan with respect to the protection of their interests and their people, and our efforts to continue to help their army to be able to deal with extreme terrorists who are still trying to kill people in Afghanistan," Kerry said in a press conference with Afghan President Hamid Karzai in Kabul March 25. "We're on the same page."

Karzai said he is planning to travel to Qatar soon for talks with the emir of Qatar about the Taliban opening an office there for the purpose of negotiations. "We want to encourage those who come to Qatar on behalf of the Taliban to begin to talk with the Afghan Peace Council as soon as possible," he said.

The secretary said the United States is committed to an "enduring partnership" with the Afghan people as they seek "a secure and democratic nation."

Kerry noted that Afghanistan is going through three types of transitions simultaneously: security, political and economic.

The security transition involves the transfer of security issues from NATO-led forces to Afghan forces by the end of 2014. "We are helping Afghanistan to have the ability to defend itself. Afghanistan will have one of the largest armies in the region: 352,000 troops," Kerry said. "So Afghanistan is proving its capacity right now that it can and will defend itself."

"The national security forces of Afghanistan are fully prepared to protect their country, and they consider the transition as a good step and for the benefit of both Afghanistan and for the United States," Karzai said.

During the secretary's visit, the United States handed over authority for the prison at Bagram Air Base to the Afghan government. "It is closely linked to our sovereignty, and our sovereignty has to be exercised," Karzai said.

Kerry said that for the political transition to succeed, it is vital that the Afghan presidential election in 2014 be conducted in a way that is credible, safe, all-inclusive, transparent and accountable. "It is our hope that this election is going to be a unifying moment for Afghanistan, and that it will represent, in a sense, the crowning achievement of the president's vision for Afghanistan when he peacefully transfers power to a newly elected president," Kerry said.

The secretary said a successful economic transition will ensure that the security and political transitions succeed. He noted the rapid gains Afghanistan has made since 2003. "In the last decade, the [gross domestic product] of Afghanistan has nearly quintupled. Health facilities like hospitals have quadrupled. Access to electricity has tripled. Life expectancy is up 50 percent. A recent United Nations report showed that Afghanistan has made faster gains in human development over the last 10 years than any other country in the world," Kerry said.

Karzai said Afghanistan is ready to negotiate a bilateral security agreement with the United States that will reflect Afghanistan's sovereignty and independence.

Asia-Pacific Peacekeeping Leaders Address Modern Challenges

By Theresa Donnelly | U.S. Pacific Command Public Affairs | 26 March 2013

Kathmandu, Nepal — More than 30 senior military officers from 10 nations gathered March 23–26 at the Nepal Army headquarters to address the challenges of modern United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Their senior training seminar was held in conjunction with Exercise Shanti Prayas-2, a Nepal-hosted and U.S.-sponsored multinational training event conducted as part

of the U.S. State Department's Global Peace Operations Initiative. The goal of the training is to increase participants' interoperability and peacekeeping skills before deploying on U.N. missions. Twenty-three nations are participating in the exercise.

Participants in the senior training seminar included officers from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and the United States.

Lieutenant General Netra Bahadur Thapa, chief of staff of the Nepalese Army, emphasized in his opening remarks the challenges faced by peacekeepers and the need for training to better prepare soldiers for these complex operations.

"U.N. peacekeepers are facing very complex challenges and are often required to implement intricate mandates. Protection of civilians, [preventing] sex and gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and abuse, and human securities are all matters of grave concern for the U.N.," Thapa said.

Factors affecting the planning of peacekeeping operations include understanding the culture of the local population, the often vast areas covered by small numbers of peacekeepers, the complexity of multinational military operations, coordination with the police and humanitarian components of peacekeeping missions, dealing with transnational crime, violations of human rights and the need to provide timely and accurate information.

Retired Indian Army Lieutenant General Randhir Kumar Mehta, a former military adviser to the U.N. secretary-general, gave an overview of the history of peacekeeping operations, a description of the various U.N. peacekeeping mandates, an explanation of the overall U.N. command structure, and many suggestions for ways to improve operational performance and mission success.

Mehta emphasized how teams should work to build political unity among peacekeeping nations and all parts of the mission for the protection of civilians. Some of the duties troops encounter while conducting peacekeeping operations include how to effectively prevent conflict related to sexual violence and restoring security in nations rife with conflict.

Mehta also advised leaders to take a gender-neutral approach when training forces for peacekeeping operations.

"Let's recognize each other as the same in stamina as long as they are given the same opportunities. We must empower men and women equally. There are no

differences in terms of their ability. We have to give everyone equal opportunity," Mehta said.

The seminar offered multiple opportunities for open discussion and ways to share best practices for training peacekeepers. In the question-and-answer sessions, many explained their nations' innovative approaches to training peacekeepers, such as the integration of training involving the military, government civilians, humanitarian organizations and police.

Exercise Shanti Prayas-2 aims to train peacekeepers for all levels of peace operations involving tactical operations, such as convey escort, safeguarding a humanitarian distribution site and patrolling skills, in the field-training portion of the exercise.

"A great responsibility is on the peacekeeping training centers to impart realistic and quality training to the peacekeepers so that they can understand and implement the mission's mandate with the mission partners on the ground," Thapa said.

Women Entrepreneurs Encouraged to Network and Sell Globally

By Stephen Kaufman | Staff Writer | 25 March 2013

Washington — According to the World Bank, the more fully women can participate in their country's economy, the more likely overall economic productivity will rise, development outcomes will improve, and governing institutions will be more representative.

Currently, there are only 187 million women entrepreneurs around the world, but through Internet and mobile technology, women-owned businesses can achieve greater success through networking and reaching out to the global consumer marketplace.

Speaking in a March 21 State Department webchat, WEConnect chief executive and founder Elizabeth Vazquez said the biggest challenge to women entrepreneurs has been a lack of market access to compete for customers. But she said now they can maximize their potential to get the message out to their communities and the world of their businesses' existence and why they are offering something valuable.

Starting a business is difficult, so Vazquez advises would-be entrepreneurs to "know what you're passionate about" and to understand what customers are looking to buy.

"The money is out there. The question is, what you're offering, whatever your product, whatever your service is that you want to develop and put into the market, is it what the market actually wants?" she said.

Vazquez said it helps to have “an obsessive focus on demand” and to utilize technology to allow customers to communicate to the company what they want, even if it doesn’t exist yet. To stay competitive, anticipate the needs of the market and invest in research and development to help stay on the cutting edge, she said.

“It’s really figuring out what’s your industry sector, and within your industry sector who are the big players and what types of things are they buying and what types of things are they investing in, what types of things are they acquiring,” she said.

She also advised would-be women entrepreneurs not to do it all on their own. Her organization, WEConnect, a corporate-led nonprofit organization that helps to empower women business owners to succeed in global markets, offers ways for them to connect with buyers looking to purchase from women-owned or women-controlled businesses. By registering online, business owners can see potential customers and people can more easily find them.

For example, Vazquez said, a Peruvian women entrepreneur who makes jewelry was able to connect through her organization with Walmart.com and sign a contract that has made her products available all over the world, as well as locally.

Entrepreneurs can also take advantage of regional trade hubs set up by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Enterprise Development Network, as well as other resources, such as the artisan network created by the Aspen Institute in cooperation with the State Department.

More locally, they can join organizations such as women business owners' associations and chambers of commerce to network and share best practices and to take advantage of government programs and initiatives, such as those promoting exports, she said.

It also helps to have “an end game in mind,” Vazquez said. “Probably a lot of the successful [businesses] had an idea of where they were going with their company. They didn’t just create it just to have a company.”

She advised women to “think globally from the beginning,” even if they don’t anticipate selling their products or services beyond their local community. That mindset will affect how they choose to name their company, the organization of the company, its role in the community and its effect on society and the environment, she said.

Many women entrepreneurs have relied solely on personal or family savings to get started, but Vazquez

said they should reach more broadly to find funding sources. “Women have to show up and tell potential investors that they exist and tell them about their great ideas,” she said.

“When you have a brilliant idea about a product or service that you know has a real potential and there’s absolutely no way you’re going to get it off the ground without funding, find a partner. Find an investor. Find someone that believes in you. Maybe they don’t totally believe in your product or service, but they believe in you and can give you that access to that funding or credit,” she said.

By being transparent and accountable, women can create “better, stronger companies” that will attract businesses and consumers.

In the end, trade is about trust. “Do I trust that you’re going to pay me, and do you trust that I’m going to give you the product or service that I say I’m going to deliver?” Vazquez said.

Immigration Reform Is Economic Imperative for U.S.

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr. | Staff Writer |
22 March 2013

Washington — President Obama is calling for an immigration system that is smart, efficient and fair because it is central to his goal of promoting economic innovation and business development, says chief White House economic adviser Alan Krueger.

No country does a better job integrating and benefiting from immigrants than the United States, and immigration is seen as rejuvenating the workforce and business, Krueger said in prepared remarks before the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in Washington March 20.

“Common-sense immigration reform will harness the creativity and the energy of immigrants who want to start a business in America and strengthen our economy in the process,” Krueger told the Hispanic business executives.

“This includes immigrants who come to our country as family members of U.S. citizens or permanent residents, or as refugees fleeing persecution, or as students attending our colleges and universities,” he added.

Krueger said it is also true that immigrants start businesses at a higher rate than do native-born citizens. He noted that 40 percent of the Fortune magazine ranking of the top 500 companies in the United States was founded by immigrants and their children.

“Immigrants add to the labor force and increase the

productive capacity of the economy," said the Princeton University economist.

Currently the U.S. Department of Homeland Security estimates that there are 11.5 million undocumented immigrants living and working in the United States, and approximately 1.3 million are under the age of 18. Both the president and the Congress are working to develop immigration reform legislation that will eliminate many of the issues currently troubling federal and state governments and communities across the nation. Reform hinges on a blending of initiatives that enhance border security and provide an avenue for undocumented immigrants to gain citizenship, Krueger said.

Meanwhile, a group of Democratic and Republican U.S. senators are nearing agreement on a comprehensive immigration reform bill that would include putting undocumented immigrants on a 13-year path to full U.S. citizenship without having to return to their home countries, according to the Associated Press and news reports. But any final legislation would have to win passage in both the Senate and the House of Representatives before going to the president for his signature to become law.

In addition, the legislation would create new criteria for border security, permit more high- and low-skill workers into the country and toughen standards for businesses, which must verify that their workers are in the country legally. The senators — known as the Gang of Eight — plan to introduce the legislation for Senate consideration in April, according to news reports.

"We are grappling with a number of issues, we really are, but I think we are making progress," Senator John McCain, an Arizona Republican, told reporters the week of March 18. "Some of these issues are very complicated."

Krueger said common-sense immigration reform creates a cascading effect on the U.S. economy, meaning more business expansion and development, which generates more jobs, and more customers for businesses.

Immigrant workers also enhance productivity and incomes for other American workers, he noted. Retaining talented immigrants once they complete their higher education in the United States helps to set up the cascading impact on the economy.

According to the nation's colleges and universities, immigrants make up 14 percent of all employed college graduates in the United States, but they account for more than half of all doctorates in mathematics, computer science and engineering occupations.

"We can encourage more of these and other immigrants

to come here if we allow them to bring their families," Krueger said. "Immigration reform would keep immigrant families together, allowing them to be united in a timely and humane manner."

Euro-U.S. Space Mapping Reveals Older Universe

22 March 2013

Washington — A new map of the oldest light searing through space reveals that the universe is older than previously believed — about 100 million years older. The findings come from the Planck Space Observatory, a European Space Agency (ESA) mission, which receives support from NASA and the Department of Energy's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

The Planck telescope has created the most precise sky map ever made of the oldest light known. This light, called the cosmic microwave background (CMB), has traveled 13.8 billion years to reach us. The light has become so faint in the course of that journey that Planck observes every point in the sky an average of 1,000 times to pick up its glow.

"So far, Planck has made about a trillion observations of a billion points on the sky," said Julian Borrill of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in California. "Understanding this sheer volume of data requires a state-of-the-art supercomputer."

DOE has given Planck scientists guaranteed access to the supercomputers at the Lawrence Berkeley lab, machines that can make trillions and trillions of calculations per second.

ESA describes the CMB map as a "a snapshot of the oldest light in our universe, imprinted on the sky when the universe was just 380,000 years old."

The color variations splattered across the artist's rendering of the image represent tiny temperature fluctuations, which reflect different densities of matter in the earliest days of the universe. Over time, that matter became the stars and galaxies that make up the universe as we know it.

The Planck spacecraft launched in 2009, carrying a powerful telescope to scan the sky in circular patterns. The spacecraft has established an orbital path about 1.5 million kilometers farther from the Sun than Earth.

(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov>)